

Nichiren Shoshu Head Temple

Taisekiji



The History of Taisekiji

Taho Fuji Dainichirenge-zan Taisekiji was founded on October 12th in the third year of Sho-o (1290) by the Second High Priest, Byakuren Ajari Nikko Shonin, the legitimate successor to our Founder Nichiren Daishonin. The name Taisekiji is derived from the name of the area, Oishi-ga-hara (“*Oishi*” is another way to pronounce the Chinese characters for “*Taiseki*”). The founding lord, Nanjo Shichiro Jiro Taira-no Tokimitsu (commonly known as “Nanjo Tokimitsu”), was the lord of Fuji Ueno County.

In the fifth year of Koan (1282), Nikko Shonin received the transmission of the entirety of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism. After the Daishonin’s passing, he became the chief priest (*betto*) of Minobu-san Kuonji Temple. Within a few years, however, at the instigation of Mimbu Ajari Niko, Hakiri Sanenaga, the lord of the area, began to repeatedly commit slanderous acts against the Daishonin’s teachings. Nikko Shonin frequently gave Sanenaga strict admonitions to put a halt to his slanderous behavior. Sanenaga, however, ignored his master and refused to correct it.

Nichiren Daishonin had previously stated in his will, “When the lord of Mount Minobu goes against the Law, I (Nichiren) will no longer reside there.” Furthermore, in one of his final directives, the Daishonin stated, “When the sovereign embraces this Law, establish the [True] High Sanctuary of Hommonji Temple at Mount Fuji.” Thus, Nikko Shonin decided to leave Mount Minobu in the spring of the second year of Sho-o (1289), carrying with him the foundation of true Buddhism, the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching, together with the ashes of Nichiren Daishonin. He also took the Goshos, which are the original writings of Nichiren Daishonin, some of the Daishonin’s belongings, and other sacred treasures. Nikko Shonin moved to Fuji at the request of Nichiren Daishonin’s staunch believer, Nanjo Tokimitsu.

In the following year, the third year of Sho-o, Nikko Shonin established the foundation of Taisekiji, where he enshrined the Dai-Gohonzon, trained many disciples, and constructed the foundation for the perpetuity of the propagation of true Buddhism. Since that time, for more than 700 years, Taisekiji has been continuously transmitting the true Buddhism of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin without any interruption.



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Nichiren Shoshu
Official Website

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- 7 Honjubō
- 8 Kangyobō
- 9 Honkyobō
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- 14 Myojubō
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- 1 Hodo
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- 9 Shumu-in
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- 17 Renyo-an
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Hoando

The Hoando is the worship hall where the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching is enshrined. It was established based on the initial aspiration of the Sixty-seventh High Priest Nikken Shonin as part of the great undertaking to commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the Establishment of True Buddhism.

The groundbreaking ceremony at the start of construction of the Hoando was conducted in April 2000, and it was completed in October 2002.

The exterior structure was constructed in the traditional Japanese temple style with a two-story pyramidal roof. It houses a ground floor and basement, and is constructed with a steel-frame and partly in reinforced concrete. The imposing structure measures 75 meters in width, 116 meters in length, and has a height of 55 meters. It is comparatively the largest structure built in the traditional Japanese architectural style.

The main hall of the Hoando measures 55 meters in width and 84 meters in length. More than 230 tatami mats provide seating for priests in the inner sanctuary, while chairs for more than 5,000 believers are installed in the outer sanctuary to offer unobstructed views of the Dai-Gohonzon. The altar, where the Dai-Gohonzon is enshrined, functions as a storehouse made of special alloy to ensure maximum security.

The Hoando is the noble place where the priests and lay believers of Nichiren Shoshu who gather there offer their prayers for the achievement of kosen-rufu, to eradicate their negative karma, and to pledge their further endeavors in their practice.

Kyakuden (Reception Hall)

The Kyakuden was originally built in 1465 by the Ninth High Priest Nichiu Shonin, and reconstructed in 1732, 1871, 1948, and 1964.

The present Kyakuden was newly rebuilt in March 1998. The basic structure is made of steel for earthquake-resistance, and the building's exterior and interior finishes are made entirely of natural wood, which forms a traditional Japanese-style structure. Both its width and depth measure 50 meters, and its two stories reach a height of 36 meters. The inside provides a large space, equipped with 1,112 tatami mats.

The Kyakuden is the important hall where the majority of ceremonies are held at the Head Temple. These include the Ushitora Gongyo, the prayers for the achievement of kosen-rufu; which are conducted every morning by each successive High Priest who inherits the Heritage of the Law from Nichiren Daishonin.



Mieido (Image Hall)



frequently repaired and renovated in 1699, 1902, 1972, 1990, and 2002.

Furthermore in 2007, the building was entirely taken apart for the major renovation by the Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin. And in November 2013, the renovation was completed and the grand ceremony commemorating the completion of the major renovation was conducted.

The building measures 25 meters in width, and 23 meters in both depth and height. The Mieido is designated as a Prefectural Tangible Cultural Asset of Shizuoka.

Mutsubo

The Mutsubo was originally established by the Second High Priest Nikko Shonin in 1290. It is a significant building known as the first structure of Taisekiji. The present Mutsubo was completely rebuilt in commemoration of the 700th Anniversary of the Founding of Taisekiji in October 1988.

It is a single-story structure constructed completely of zelkova wood, measuring approximately 18 meters on each side. The interior is equipped with 170 tatami mats.



Tatchu (Subtemples within the Head Temple)

When you walk along the pilgrimage path from the Sanmon Gate, you see the wide path paved with stones, and 12 temples standing on both sides. They are the central Tatchu temples (Chuo Tatchu). With the coming of spring,



the entire avenue is brilliantly colored as weeping cherry trees on both sides of the pilgrimage path burst into bloom. In addition to the central Tatchu temples, there are seven subtemples, called the east Tatchu temples (Higashi Tatchu), and three others called the west Tatchu temples (Nishi Tatchu). These Tatchu temples serve as resting and waiting areas for participants making a tozan pilgrimage.

Sanmon (Gate of Three Entrances)

(The cover photo)

The construction work of the Sanmon Gate began under the auspices of the Twenty-fifth High Priest Nichiyu Shonin. At that time, the sixth Tokugawa Shogun, Lord Ienobu, donated 70 giant trees from Mt. Fuji, and in 1712, his wife, Tenei-in contributed 1,200 pieces of gold for its construction. It took five years to build and was completed in 1717.

Minor repairs have since been made. In 2015, the major restoration works were started by the Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin. The entire gate was dismantled and reconstructed, and in January 2021, the ceremony to report the completion of the Sanmon Gate's major renovation was officiated.

The red lacquered wooden gate, with proportions of almost 24 meters wide, 11 meters deep and a height of 22 meters, is the largest of its kind in Japan's Tokai region.

The Sanmon Gate is designated as a Prefectural Tangible Cultural Asset of Shizuoka.



Goju-no-to (Five-storied Pagoda)

Surrounded by trees, the Goju-no-to stands on a hill on the far side of the Uruigawa River, facing west. It is said to be the finest pagoda on the Tokaido, the ancient road that links Tokyo and Kyoto.

The Twenty-sixth High Priest Nichikan Shonin and Tenei-in, the wife of the sixth Tokugawa Shogun, jointly left an endowment for the construction of the pagoda. The subsequent five High Priests inherited the long-cherished dream. And finally in 1749, with offerings from various provinces and a donation from Lord Itakura Katsuzumi, the Lord of the Matsuyama Domain, the Thirty-first High Priest Nichi'in Shonin completed the construction.

The pagoda was renovated by the Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin, with work beginning in 2015. The ceremony for the completion of the restoration was officiated in January 2017. The structure measures 6.4 meters on each side, and has a height of 34.3 meters. The pagoda is designated as an Important National Cultural Asset of Japan.

Hoshoen

The spacious Hoshoen Garden measures approximately 5,300 square meters and was completed on the south side of the Renyo-an in the spring of 1990, as one of the projects to commemorate the 700th Anniversary of the Founding of Head Temple Taisekiji. On clear days, magnificent Mount Fuji is vividly reflected in the Myokyo-ike Pond situated in the center of the garden.

